



## A CHAT ABOUT FLAX.

We intend to keep our readers in Maine, "posted up" in regard to the improvements, in the mode of dressing and preparing flax, whether they raise any or not.

The flax stalk, like the stalk of other annual vegetables, is made up of cuticle, or thin skin, then a fibrous bark, and then a woody pith. The cuticle and fibrous bark, and then the woody pith, by a gummy matter, which binds them altogether into a compact form. This gummy matter is more easily rotted, or decomposed, than the fibrous part of the bark and pith, and when it is rotted, it is easily washed or worked out, and the fibres, by being rubbed, separate from each other, and can then be spun, and twisted together into thread.

The old system of rotting or decomposing this gum, was to spread the stalks of the flax out evenly, but thinly, upon the grass ground, where, by the combined action of the sun, and air, and rains, and dews, it became decomposed, and ready for rubbing or breaking. Flax prepared in this way, was called "dew rotted flax." Another mode was to put the flax stalk, into a pit or vat of stagnant water, where it would be warm enough to bring on decomposition, after which it was taken out and dried. Flax prepared in this way, was called "water rotted flax."

These two modes were the only ones known, and practised from time immemorial, until some eight or ten years ago; a patent was taken out in this country for a mode of packing flax, into large, tight, wooden vats, where they were filled with water, and this water kept warm by throwing in a little steam, or by passing steam through pipes in the vats. In this way very large amounts of flax could be rotted in a few days, the only care being to keep the water, in which the flax was thus macerated, up to a temperature of 98 degrees, or about blood warm.

This mode of great revolution in the flax business, and Flax companies were formed in different parts of England, and especially among the great flax manufacturers of Belfast in Ireland. Experiment leads to experiment, and successful research too, opens the door to further research, and the exploration of fields beyond.

Others, seeing the success attending this mode of operating with flax, and becoming better acquainted with its nature, and what was required to prepare it for manufacturing into thread, set about further research into the mode of accomplishing this, in the shortest and cheapest manner.

Further light has been brought out, and success has crowned their labors.

The March number of the Canadian Agriculturist, an excellent monthly, published in Toronto, and edited by E. G. Backland, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture; quotes from an English paper quite largely, respecting the successful experiments of a Mr. Watts, who has been operating under the auspices of the royal flax society, which was organized in Belfast, Ireland, in 1841.

We extract a part of the description, sufficient to give those of our readers who feel an interest in the subject, an insight into the improvements made. The flax straw is delivered at the works by the grower, in the dry state, with the seed on.

The seed is separated by metallic rollers, and afterwards cleaned by fanners. The straw is then placed in close chambers, with the exception of two doors, which serve the purpose of putting in and discharging the straw, the top, which is of cast iron, serves the double purpose of a top, and a condenser.

The straw is then laid on a perforated false bottom of iron, and the doors being closed, and made tight by means of screws, steam is driven in by a pipe round the chamber, and between the bottom, and penetrating the mass, at first removes certain volatile oils contained in the plant, and then is condensed in the bottom of the iron tank, descending in a continuous shower of condensed water, saturating the straw, and forming in fact, a decoction of the extractive matters, which are contained in the fibrous, and non fibrous portions of the plant.

This liquid is drawn off from time to time, and the more concentrated portions are used for feeding; the process is shortened by using a pump, or such arrangements as will repeatedly wash the mass, with the water allowed to accumulate. In about eight to twelve hours, varying with the nature of the straw, it is removed from the chambers, and having been robbed of its extractive matters, without decomposition, it is then passed through rollers, for the purpose of removing the epidermis, or outer skin of the plant—of discharging the greater part of the water contained in the saturated straw, and while in the vat, where it was subjected to its steaming process, for about 11 hours. After steaming, wet rotting, and drying, it weighed 7 cwt. 0 lb. 11 lb., as on being scutched, (broken,) the yield was 187 lb. of flax; and of

scutching tow, 12 lb. 64 oz. fine, and 35 lb. 3 oz. coarse.

The yield of fibre of good flax, was therefore at the rate of 134 lb. from the cwt. of straw, with seed on; 18 lb. from the cwt. of straw without seed; 264 lbs. from the cwt. of steeped and dried straw.

One advantage in the mode of preparing flax is this:—Instead of the water, in which it is prepared, being a stinking compound, it is in fact nothing less than good tea, containing considerable nutriment, in consequence of holding in solution a large quantity of gummy matter, and other extracts from the flax itself, and may be used with other feed for stock.

CORRECTIONS. The article on grape culture, by Mr. Johnston, which we published in our last number, should have been credited to the Magazine of Horticulture. The editorial remarks were by Mr. Hovey, editor of that valuable periodical. In our article on Leicester sheep, our P. D. made us say that Robert Bakewell imported sheep. Now Robert did not such thing, and we said no such thing. We did say he improved them; and we "stick to it," the P. D. to the contrary, notwithstanding.

For the Maine Farmer.

## PEARS ON QUINCE ROOTS.

Your inquiry, the other day, whether quince rooted pear trees were really desirable to plant, or not, is a very natural one, seeing the conflicting opinions expressed in regard to them, some extolling them, and others condemning them in toto, and deserves a more extended reply than could be given in so hasty an interview. The whole truth of the matter, as it seems to me, lies in a nut shell, and is briefly this, that some pears are constitutionally adapted to the quince, while others, and probably the majority, are not. Again, some varieties of quince are suitable for working the pear upon, and others are unsuitable; perhaps some pears are better suited with one sort, and some with another. So, then, put the right sort of pear upon the right sort of quince, and you have good trees, and, if properly treated, thrifty, healthy, productive and enduring; but otherwise, put sorts upon the quince which do not agree with it, or such as do upon the wrong sort of quince, or work them any way but the right way, and you have trees, dwarfish, unthrifty and short lived.

The cultivation of the pear on the quince is comparatively a new thing. True, trees can be found here and there, in Massachusetts, imported thirty or forty years ago, which have succeeded finely, and promise to do so for years to come; but little little or nothing was known of the peculiarities of different varieties, either as scions or stocks, as to their adaptation to one another, and when experiments were made, they were made in the dark, and no wonder if there were more instances of failure than of success. But, in spite of failure, some would try and try again, and import the different sorts of quince for stocks, and work all sorts of pears upon them, and the result has been a rapid change of opinion and practice, and probably more quince rooted pears were planted last year, in the United States, than in any twenty years prior to 1845.

Where the soil and situation are in all respects adapted to the pear, on its own root, the chief advantages which the quince offers are, the earlier production of fruit, and enabling the cultivator to have many sorts in a small garden, but such places are comparatively rare, certainly in Maine, and here comes to view what I deem the great merit of the quince stock, viz: that it will succeed in any soil, if made rich enough, and free from stagnant moisture, either by a naturally porous subsoil, or by thorough drainage. Another, and not unimportant advantage, is, that by the earlier cessation of growth in autumn, the wood is more thoroughly ripened, and thus the trees are hardier than on the pear root. I don't know that I can do better to-day than to send you a paper, written several years ago, for the transactions of the York County Agricultural Society. If the work served to re-write it, some modifications would be made, but as it does not, I throw in a note or two which answer the same purpose, and when I have leisure I may send you a list of sorts which I do, and of others which do not succeed on the quince. Yours truly,

S. L. GOODALE.

"That the pear tree formerly grew with luxuriance in this country, is sufficiently shown by the large trees still standing, many of which may be seen in the towns of York, Kittery and others, bearing the marks of great age, and still producing good crops, and although the quality of the fruit is inferior and used only in the manufacture of perry, their vigor and health are not to be doubted, or their capacity to bear equally good crops of fine quality, had they been judiciously grafted.

That the pear does not now grow as in former years, is equally well known to all who have attempted its cultivation. It is difficult to raise seedlings, a blight attacking the leaves the first summer which goes far towards destroying them, and when perseverance we succeed in getting a few years of tolerable growth, and graft or bud the finer sorts, now the only desirable ones, we find them lack vigor and liable to disease (1) and decay.

What may be the causes of this difference is as yet uncertain, and it is of more consequence to the cultivator to know if any remedy can be found, than to speculate upon them. Such a remedy is believed may be found, to a great extent, at least, in the quince stock to grow the trees upon.

Throughout the United States, quince rooted pear trees are coming into great favor with all who have used them, and it is believed that they may be as successfully cultivated in Maine as in any other State, notwithstanding its greater vicissitudes of climate. It is proposed to give, as the result of some observation and experience in planting trees on the quince, a few remarks upon their relative advantages and disadvantages, and upon their mode of cultivation, and it may well first to state that the quince used by the French for this purpose, and known as the Angers and Paris varieties are of more rapid growth than the sorts usually cultivated here for fruit.

They somewhat dwarf the trees, but by no means so much as the others.

One advantage is, that they come early into bearing. The old adage "who plants pears, plants for his heirs," applies rather to the pear stock than to the quince, as these sometimes show fruit the first year, and usually bear in their second or third. They also produce more abundant crops. Indeed, the propensity of some sorts to bear too early and too much is such, as, if allowed, to ruin the tree, and must be carefully guarded against; no more should be left on the tree than it can ripen without exhaustion; and at the same time making a fair growth. The first year of fruiting, be content with a sample or two to test their correctness to the name. The second, if the tree has grown well, a dozen may be left on, and as they increase in size and strength, from a peck to a bushel. A barrel has sometimes been taken from one tree, twelve to fifteen years planted.

These trees will succeed in many kinds of soil unfavorable to the pear root. Indeed, any soil which will yield a crop of Indian corn, will answer for these, provided it be highly cultivated and made rich. They do better of course in a soil naturally adapted to fruit, but all have not such command, and hundreds would be glad to raise pears, upon such as they have, can succeed with these where the pear root would fail.

They are more hardy. The quince throws out abundance of fibrous roots, which spread wide rather than deep, and thus protect the trees from liability to injury from the action of frost, and as the shoots usually finish their growth in August, the new wood of each year becomes thoroughly ripened and able to withstand any degree of cold.

Another advantage to those who wish to cultivate many sorts in a small garden is, that they require less space, eight feet apart being a suitable distance for these as sixteen for many trees on pear root, consequently four times as many trees can be planted in the same space.

The quality of some varieties on the quince, is much superior to those of the same on the pear root, being more melting and buttery, and higher flavored, as is the case with the Louise Bonne de Jersey, Duchesse d'Angoulême, Beurre d'Inde and others, the first of which is rarely fine on the pear, but on the quince has no superior, taking into consideration all its good qualities.

Among their disadvantages, the greatest is that they are comparatively short lived. (2) The pear tree, on its own root, under favorable conditions, attains a great age, sometimes exceeding a hundred years, while on the quince it rarely exceeds thirty or forty, and perhaps often not more than twenty, consequently the Orchardist who desires large and long lived trees, will not find these answer his purpose. Another is, that they require more care (3) and attention, and will not thrive under common orchard treatment, or rather neglect. They may as well be used for fuel at once, as to have their roots thrust under a soil, in the manner sometimes done, and then left without further thought or attention. (4)

Their proper place is the fruit garden, and with suitable care in planting, enriching the soil and pruning, they will become the most profitable and ornamental occupants which can be introduced. In planting, the holes should be dug deep, throwing aside the subsoil, and two or three feet wider than the roots extend; fill around them carefully with rich soil, first examining each root to see if any be injured, and cutting off their ends smoothly to perfect soundness, with a sharp knife, (a portion of well decomposed manure, or compost may be mingled with it, but no green manure) press the soil gently around them, leaving no vacancies which would cause them to mould, and set the whole of the quince under ground, without reference to the height at which the budding or grafting was performed, and have the tree stand, when the planting is done, so that the junction of the pear and quince be one inch below the surface. The quince has such peculiar power of emitting healthy roots, that in a few years after planting, the principal ones will be near the surface, although at the time of planting, there were none within six or even twelve inches. We have seen instances where a portion of the quince was left above the ground at planting; and in a few years roots came from this portion in a wet season, penetrating the ground, became large, and at first sight, give the impression that the tree has been raised by the frost, or that the earth has been removed from around it. Setting at this depth also secures the quince from the attacks of the borer, to which it is liable, and in some localities proves destructive, and it is not so low as to induce the pear to strike roots of its own. This is, however, sometimes desirable, if the soil be adapted to the pear root, and large, long lived trees, are wanted. It can be usually effected in the following manner—remove from the surface the earth around the tree, and cut with a sharp gouge several tongues of the thickness of the bark and sapwood, from the junction upwards, three quarters of an inch wide, and put a little earth beneath them, then fill around with rich soil. If the weather be dry, place some litter around to retain moisture; dry places should be thus operated on at once, and it should be performed in July, when the descending sap is most abundant, which this operation arrests and forms a callus, which soon emits roots, and thus the tree becomes established on its own bottom, and distinctive character as a dwarf tree lost.

The following is recommended as the best compost for manuring them. Peat or swamp muck, one cord—stable manure, half a cord—wood ashes, ten bushels—ground bones, or bone dust, two bushels—and if it can be had, twenty pounds of horn shavings, and give or two bushels charcoal dust may be added to advantage. The whole to be thoroughly mixed, and turned several times before using. This quantity will be sufficient for a liberal annual dressing for fifty trees. Guano may also be used to advantage, by digging in around established trees, two or three pounds in the spring, or it may be added to the compost above named at the rate of one pound to each tree.

The quality of the fruit is much affected by the method of ripening. Some sorts, if ripened on the tree, are dry and almost worthless, but if taken off at the proper time and ripened in the house, are juicy and delicious. Summer and autumn varieties should be picked as soon as the fruit parts from the spur upon turning it upwards to a right angle, and taken to the fruit room. Winter varieties should remain on the tree, until after the first frost, then take to the house and kept in a cool dry place, and about a fortnight before the usual time of maturity, brought into a warm room, (55 to 70 deg.) and kept in close boxes or drawers. By this treatment they ripen with full flavor and without shrivelling."

1. One of the most fertile sources of disease in fruit trees, is a retentive subsoil, keeping the roots wet with feet all the year—the remedy, through drainage. My pears, on pear roots, succeed far better than before the land was undrained.

2. The longevity depends, in a great measure, on the nature, and adaptation of the stock and soil, and this alone may cause a variation of from five to fifty years.

3. Perhaps not on the whole, I would not give a button to choose between a neglected tree one stock or the other.

4. True, every word of it, and so may any fruit tree. S. L. G.

For the Maine Farmer.

## DISEASE IN A HORSE—QUERIES.

MR. EDITOR.—Knowing from your well established character, and the very popular paper you publish, that you are interested in agricultural matters, the rearing of cattle, their diseases, &c. I take the liberty, though a stranger to you personally, to ask your advice in a case of my own. I hope you will not consider me impertinent by so doing.

I have a young mare (five years old), that is troubled very much with her water; and I am unable to discern the exact cause, and consequently unable to apply any remedy. She was raised on "Prime Edward's Island," and was brought to this place, about the middle of January, since which time, I have owned her, having swapped and got her, thinking to get a very nice horse; and I think she would be, were it not for this trouble in her water.

I will try to state her case as well as I can, but not being familiar with the language of the farrier, I do not know as I can do intelligibly, but I will "try."

She makes frequent, (though not very frequent) attempts to stale, but generally makes but very little water; may at times a cup full, and then at other times rather more, and then again, once in a great while, she will do nearly as well as horses generally do. She never has till lately evinced much pain, but twice, (and that was when she had been to work rather harder than usual, though I never work her hard.) I observed she appeared to be in pain, groaning somewhat, and lifting up one of her feet. When she does stale, the lower part of the stream falls right straight down to the ground, instead of being propelled at some distance from the body, as is common in such cases.

She does not eat well at all, appears to be weak, and does not seem to handle her hind legs very well; they appear to screw and twist about more than is usual, yet she draws quite well, and travels tolerably well; but she can't do much of either, as she can't stand much, for she is not strong and vigorous like a well horse. I have never known her to stretch since I had her, though there has been quite a number of days together, when she has done nothing, and I giving any and every thing I could get her to eat. I never knew her to lie down in the stable, (though there is plenty of room), nor out doors, as I turned her out some short time since, when the ground was quite bare; but she would run, "and kick up her heels" and appear quite smart and well. She will roll over however when she has a chance, and I did one day however, see her lay down in the stable very quick, but she did not lay one quarter of a minute, but jumped immediately up, and I presume the cause was either this complaint of her water, or colic, or something of that kind. She switched her tail considerably, and I gave her a little tobacco in potatoes, thinking it might be worms; it appeared to help her. She has had quite a time of switching her tail to-day. When I first got her she had a bad cold, or a touch of the horse-ail, but I soon cured her of that; she looks very gaunt, and did when I got her, but I supposed it was in consequence of her not being taken good care of; but I can't make her look any otherwise. I have given her very slight diuretics, such as saltpetre, rosin, &c., which I do not think had any effect on her at all.

Now my own opinion is that she has been hurt across the kidneys, by some means, or perhaps it may be in the bladder. I have read Mr. Cole's work on the diseases of animals, (you have no doubt seen it, as he frequently mentions your name,) but I can find nothing in it, which seems to apply precisely to my case. Now can you give me any advice in this case? Do you think that a "season's run" would do her any good; that is, should she be turned out, and not worked all next season, should she live, would that be likely to help her? She does not appear to be sore or swelled anywhere, that I can discover.

When she was first brought from the Island, which was some time last year, she was owned in St. John by a heavy man, and I am fearful he might have hurt her riding on horseback, but don't know anything about it. She does not appear to like to move very well, for when I feed her, she does not immediately step right up to the crib, as a well, hungry horse would, but stops half a minute, or such a matter.

Now sir, if you can find time to reply to this, in case you can understand me, you will greatly oblige me. Yours, very respectfully,

SIMON B. LOWELL.

Whitneyville, March 8th, 1853.

NOTE. Although our correspondent has given a pretty full account, of the symptoms of a disease with which his mare is troubled, it is

difficult to decide with complete certainty, what all the disease is. It is evident that there is trouble in the kidneys, and perhaps throughout the whole urinary apparatus. The fact that there is but little propulsion or force, in throwing out, indicates a lack of muscular action, in the bladder, and other muscles necessary to effect this. The fact of there being a scanty amount of water voided, indicates a lack of action in the kidneys, in not secreting their usual quantity.

Is there ever been any thing like gravel voided? Some of the symptoms indicate, that horses and cattle, are sometimes troubled with gravel, or "urinary calculus."

A friend of ours, some years ago, lost a valuable stud horse by this disease; and one of our neighbors, this winter had to fatten and slaughter a young ox, in consequence of its being so troubled with it, as to unfit it for labor.

We think a summer's run at grass, in a pasture where there would be nothing to annoy, and harness the mare in question, would do her more good than any thing else. The diuretic and purgative qualities of the grass, together with the comparative rest and quietness, would do much to restore the natural action of the system.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

West Lincoln Ag. and Hort. Society. The annual meeting of the West Lincoln Agricultural and Horticultural Society was held in Jones' Hall, in Lewiston, on Wednesday last. Meeting was called to order by the President. Report of trustees was called for, and read, as follows:—

To the President and Members of the West Lincoln Ag. and Hort. Society: Your Trustees have attended to the duties assigned them, and report:—

We have enrolled as members 231, from whom we have received

Amounting to \$308 37 We have drawn orders, and paid out as follows:—

For bills of hay, lumber, books and stationery, fence, pens for stock, printing, &c., \$73 08 To trustees, for expenses, 6 00 To Rev. Mr. Stevens, for address, 10 00 For premiums awarded, 190 49

Amounting to \$279 57 Receipts, \$308 37 Expenditures, 279 57

Leaving in hands of Treasurer, \$28 80 Amount to be received from State, 150 00

Then there will be in Treasury, \$178 80 All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. M. FRYE, Chairman of Trustees. The report was accepted. Also, the trustees were directed to insert a clause concerning the attendance.

Article 5 of the by-laws was so altered as to read, "2 Vice Presidents," instead of 4, as formerly, and to read, "5 Trustees," instead of 7. Elected the following persons a board of officers for the ensuing year:—

President—Elijah Barrell, Esq., Greene.

1st Vice President—James Lowell, Esq., Lewiston; 2d do., Daniel Briggs, Esq., Auburn.

Recording Secretary—W. R. Wright, Lewiston.

Treasurer—Capt. Mark Lowell, Lewiston. Agent—Col. Ebenezer Ham, Lewiston.

Librarian—Calvin Record, Esq., Danville. Trustees—J. M. Frye, Esq., Lewiston; Augustus Sprague, Esq., Greene; Alvah Marston, Danham; Jesse Davis, Esq., Webster; Robert Martin, Danville.

Voted, That all premiums awarded, which may remain in the hands of the trustees after the first of January following the award, shall be considered as donations to the Society.

Voted, To assess a tax of one dollar upon each male member of the Society, excepting life members, and that the same be paid into the Treasury by the 15th of August next.

Voted, To request the Farmer and Mechanic, and the Maine Farmer, to publish the doings of this meeting.

Adjourned sine die. The meeting was very well attended, and much interest in the cause was manifested. W. R. WRIGHT, Rec. Sec'y. Lewiston March 11, 1853.

East Somerset Agricultural Society. Officers for the year 1853:— President—Warren Fuller.

Vice President—Thomas Millett. Secretary—William Folsom. Assistant Secretary—B. F. Furber. Collector and Treasurer—William Folsom.

Auditor—D. G. Folsom. Trustees—B. F. Furber, E. Crocker, Thomas Fuller, Wm. M. Palmer, James Fuller.

Committee on Crops—Wm. M. Palmer, D. G. Folsom, Francis R. Dinsmore. Committee on Stock—John Rowell, O. D. Nay, Thomas Fuller.

Committee on Manufactures—E. Crocker, Aail Silson, James Fuller. Next Show and Fair to be held at Hartland village, on the last Wednesday and Thursday of Sept., 1853.

The next annual meeting to be held at the office of Wm. Folsom, in Hartland, on the first Saturday of January, 1854.

WILLIAM FOLSOM, Secretary. North Franklin Agricultural Society. At the annual meeting of this Society, held at the town house in Phillips, March 24, the following officers were chosen:— President—Hon. B. F. Eastman.

Vice President—Joshua Soule. Recording Secretary—William B. Bennet. Corresponding Secretary—J. W. Porter. Treasurer and Collector—J. W. Porter. Trustees—Enoch Craig, Ambrose Willard, Clark Mitchell, John Toothaker, Daniel Tarbox, Jr.

Standing Committee on Stock—Edward K. Hiseock, Sheldon H. Beale, Joseph Sherburne. Standing Committee on Crops—Andrew H.

Bonney, Joshua Sprague, Sallow Whitney. Standing Committee on Manufactures—Sylvanus Dunham, 2d, Nathaniel E. Wright.

W. NORTON, Recording Secretary. North Aroostook Ag. and Hort. Society. At the annual meeting of the North Aroostook Agricultural and Horticultural Society, held at Letter D, Feb. 23, 1853, the following officers were chosen:—

President—E. C. Blake. Vice Presidents—Moses Rose, Freeman Ellis. Recording Secretary—Bradford Cummings.

Corresponding Secretary—Beniah Pratt. Treasurer and Collector—Henry W. Hyde. Agent—Trevy Hardison.

Trustees—Hiram Stevens, Sumner Whitney, George Sampson. Voted, That the doings of this meeting, signed by the President and Secretary, be published in the Maine Farmer. E. C. BLAKE, President.

B. CUMMINGS, Secretary.

## MARCH.

Blows by rude gusts, and rolling clouds aloft, March fills the noon; while loosed in grief, full of The winds bewail or roar in thunder by: Tender the forest at the sound inclines

Its hoary boughs, that with the movement shed Jewels around; and, see! amidst them shines The living cross, with radiant head, Silvered with snow, yet opening to the sky.

Strange are his moods: for now 'tis splendor all, Now sunless gloom, now calm, now pregnant shade, Sunshine and storm; now wakes the waterfall, Now brooklets flow, and now in ice are stay'd.

Yet, budding out, despite each fickle hour, Green tints the bank, and promise shapes the flower.

## SCAB ON SHEEP.

MR. EDITOR.—I enclose a recipe for the cure of scab on sheep.

Take ungumtun, the size of a large white bean, and rub powerfully on the parts affected. If there are any pustules, they should be punctured with a knife, and the pus pressed out.

Car should be taken to keep the sheep from exposure to rain for a week after the application. This remedy is easily applied, cheap, and more efficacious than all the tobacco that was ever produced by the snap of the whip.

P. S. A second application on the sheep after an interval of four days may be necessary. Dublin, January, 1853. [Granite Farmer.

BUSH COOKERY. Here I was first initiated into the bush art of "stickerup" cookery, and for the benefit of all who go "a gipsying," I will expound the mystery. The orthodox material here is of course kangaroo, a piece of which is divided nicely into cutlets, two or three inches broad, and a third of an inch thick. The next requisite is a straight clean stick, about four feet long, sharpened at both ends. On the narrow part of this, for the space of a foot or more, the cutlets are spitted at intervals, and on the end is placed a piece of delicately rosy fat bacon. The strong end of the stick is now stuck fast and erect in the ground, close by the fire, to leeward; care being taken that it does not burn. Then the bacon on the summit of the spit, speedily softening in the genial blaze, drops a lubricating shower of rich and savory tears on the leaner kangaroo cutlets below, which forthwith frizzle and steam and sputter with as much ado as if they were illustrious Christmas beef grilling in some London chop shop under the grateful nose of the expectant consumer.—"And, gentlemen," as dear old Hardcastle would have said, if he had dined with us in the bush, "to men that are hungry, stuck-up kangaroo and bacon are very good eating." Kangaroo is in fact, very like hare.

[Mrs. Meredith's Home in Tasmania.

EARLY POTATOES. Geo. H. Nichols, of West Amesbury, Mass., writes to the Ploughman:—"I saw you advised farmers in one of your numbers last spring, to start their potatoes in horse manure. I have followed it for seven or eight years, and find it profitable in two ways; firstly, you get clear of the rot; secondly, you get a good price for your potatoes, and your land is ready for a crop of pickles or turnips. Potatoes started in this way you get three weeks earlier. A neighbor of ours planted potatoes the fourth of April. He came over to our house a fortnight or two after and said he should have potatoes in the market first. Mine were then in the hot bed. I began to take mine out of the hot bed the 25th of April, and finished planting the first of May. Now for the difference. I carried potatoes into Newburyport market ten days sooner; the first that were in; they were nearly all full grown; his were small. I carried off 164 bushels of marketable potatoes from July 12th up to August 6th. I had about 24 acres planted four feet between the rows and six inches in the drills; my ridges were broad and flat; I hoed twice."

A HORSE'S FOOT. The foot of a horse is one of the most ingenious and singular pieces of mechanism in the animal structure, and scarcely yielding to any in regularity and complexity of parts, under simplicity of design. The hoof contains a series of vertical and thin lamina of horn, so numerous as to amount to about 500, and forming a complete lining to it. Into this are fitted as many laminae belonging to the corium, which sets are elastic and adherent. The edges of a quire of paper, inserted leaf by leaf into one another, will convey a sufficient idea of this arrangement. Thus the weight of the animal is supported by as many elastic springs as there are laminae in all the feet, amounting to about four thousand, distributed in the most secure manner, since every spring is acted upon in an oblique direction. Such is the contrivance for the safety of an animal designed to carry greater weight than that of its own body, and to carry those, also, under the hazard of heavy shocks. [M' Culloch.

BAKED HAM. Most persons boil ham. It is much better baked, if baked right. Soak it for an hour in clean water and wipe it dry, and then spread it all over with thin batter, and then put it into a deep dish, with sticks under it to keep it out of the gravy. When it is fully done, take off the skin and batter crust upon the flesh side, and set it away to cool. You will find it very delicious, but too rich for dyspeptics.

FEEDING AND FATTENING FOWLS. We find the following article in an exchange, without any credit. The raising of fowls is quite an important business, now, and the following may not be without interest to our readers:—

Fowl will become fat on the common run of the farm-yard where they thrive on the offals of the stables, and other refuse, with perhaps small regular daily feeds; but at thrashing time they come particularly fat, and are thence styled barn-door fowls, probably the most delicate and highly flavored of all others, both from their full allowance of the finest grain, and the constant health in which they are kept by living in a natural state, and having the full enjoyment of air and exercise. It is a common practice with some housewives to coop their barn-door fowls for a week or two, under the notion of improving them for the table, and increasing their fatness; a practice, however, which seldom succeeds, since the fowls generally pine for their liberty, and slighting their food, lose instead of gaining additional flesh, the period being too short for them to become accustomed to confinement.

Sandy gravel and a little lime rubbish should be placed where they can be always accessible to fowls and often changed. Small bits of charcoal, it is also said, will be swallowed by poultry, and prove beneficial to them; a sufficient number of troughs for both water and food, should be placed around, that the stock may feel with as little interruption as possible from each other, and perch for roosting on in the same proportion should be furnished for those birds, which are inclined to roost aloft, which few of them will desire after they have begun to fatten, but which will help to keep them easy and contented till that period. By this mode fowls may be fattened to the highest pitch, and yet preserved in a healthy state, their flesh being equal in quality to that of the barn-door fowl.

Barley and wheat are the great dependance for chicken poultry; oats will do for full grown hens and cocks, but are not so good as barley; both, when they have their fill of corn, will eat occasionally cabbage or beet leaves. Steamed potatoes and oat-meal mixed together make an excellent mess, but must not be given in great quantities, otherwise, they render the flesh soft and flabby.

The dung of poultry, which is exceedingly rich, should be carefully saved for use, and the turf of any enclosure in which they may be kept, occasionally pared off for mixing with compost. A little molasses, or any other saccharine substance is very useful to mix with the food of poultry, which it is intended to fatten. Perhaps it is a straight clean stick, about four feet long, sharpened at both ends. On the narrow part of this, for the space of a foot or more, the cutlets are spitted at intervals, and



AUGUSTA:  
THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 24, 1883.

## GIVING THEM TIME TO REFLECT.

Our friend and neighbor, John Kezer, once told us it was a good thing to let colts that you are breaking or training have a little time to "reflect." We have been reminded of this by a scrap in the Prairie Farmer, from a correspondent of that paper, who attributes the information to D. Thomas. He says that a worthy Englishman, with whom he was intimate, told him that an itinerant horse breaker was once exhibiting feats of his horsemanship, at a nobleman's. The people had collected from far and near, and after he had performed his feat, and, "Now, my lord, I am willing to ride any horse of yours in the same manner. Having one remarkably stubborn, the nobleman, to have some sport, told him to go to bring her out. The stranger then deliberately mounted, and urged her to move, but not one step would she stir. After a pause, he quietly dismounted, gave her one severe stroke with his whip, and again resumed his seat in the saddle. The mare continued immovable, but the man preserved his temper, and got down quietly a second time, repeating the blow, but with no better success. After the third stroke, however, she was completely subdued, and moved forward with perfect obedience. It now became evident, that the design of the horseman, was to associate the idea of her disobedience, with the stroke of the whip that followed. When this was established she was willing to move.

In other words, he gave the mare time to reflect, as our friend Kezer would say, and the reflection did her good, and helped to subdue her stubbornness.

The writer above quoted, goes on to say, "on the reverse, if a shower of blows had been dealt out, as thousands of horsemen would have done, the mare would have had no time to reflect, and both she and her rider been roused into fury."

## WHERE IS DR. GREENE?

In the fall and winter of 1851 and 1852, a gentleman by the name of S. D. Greene, sometimes known as Dr. Greene, came among us Kennebecers, as an agent for the sale of Goodrich's Pictorial Geography, which was published by C. D. Strong, in 1851. Mr. Greene represented, that in addition to this geography, the subscribers would be entitled to a forthcoming volume, which they would receive by February 1852, and it would be put to them at half price. Well, although the most of us were well supplied with different geographical authors, for the sake of being "posted up" in "geography," by so clever an author as S. G. Goodrich, very many subscribed, received the pictorial, and paid more than it was worth, in the hope of having it all made right by the reduced price of the future volume.

And now, dear Dr. Greene where art thou, and where is the new volume? February of 1852 came, and went, and lo, there was no Dr. Greene, and the new Geography. February 1853 came and went, and yet no trace of Dr. Greene and the new Geography; not a glimpse, nor a shadow, not even so much as a tick, or a thump of spiritual rapping, has been heard from him or the new geography.

We have all studied the "pictorial" through, examined all the pictures from the globe and the inkhorn, at the top of the title page, to the hut of the New Zealand at the end of the book. We have read all the stories, and now are getting behind the times in geographical lore, and that too, when we have paid in advance for being kept on an even pace with Time himself, in these matters. Who can tell us Dr. Greene's whereabouts?

## TREATISE ON GRAPE CULTURE.

C. M. Saxton of New York, the indefatigable publisher of agricultural books, has just issued from his press, "A practical treatise on the culture and treatment of the Grape vine," by J. F. Allen. This is the third edition of Mr. Allen's work on grapes, and from being a thin pamphlet, as the first edition was, it has increased in size and stature, until it now comes out a thick duodecimo, of more than 300 pages. Mr. Allen has gone minutely into the subject of grape culture, and gives details respecting the business: whether it be conducted in a forcing or hot house, in a cold house, or in no house at all, but out of doors.

He has not only given to the reader, his own practical experience, which is valuable, but he has also collected, condensed, and brought in the experience of many other actual cultivators, all of which you may have, by sending a dollar to the publisher, in a letter which is postpaid. Mr. Allen has been considered a safe guide, for those who are anxious to make themselves acquainted with the principles of raising good grapes in their gardens.

## SUBSTITUTING MILK FOR OIL.

The following statement has been copied by several papers, from an English paper. We do not know anything, in regard to the facts concerning it, and therefore give it to our readers without comment.

The paper states, that in consequence of the high price of olive oil, a woolen manufacturer in the neighborhood of Thurstone near Penistone, tried the use of milk, instead of olive oil, which they had been in the habit of using largely. The experiment exceeded his most sanguine expectations, the mixture being far better for the purpose than olive oil alone. The experiment can be easily tried here, and if it will answer the purpose for which oil is used, it can be obtained much cheaper than that article.

FIRST NOTES OF SPRING. The Robin, who is generally the first harbinger of Spring, appeared in our midst on the morning of the 21st, right glad to greet his friends on the Kennebec once more. He appeared "fat and happy," as he skipped about from tree to tree, and looked around upon his old neighbors with a chirp, as much as to say, "I shall soon give you a gush of morning melody that will break in upon your slumbers like song from the spirit land." What a lovely world this would be without birds.

DEBATE CITY ELECTION. At the municipal election in Belfast, on the 14th inst., Hon. Ralph C. Johnson was chosen Mayor by a vote of 650, out of 700 votes. The Aldermen chosen, were Col. Rowland Carlton; S. S. Lewis; Thos. Marshall; E. K. Maddocks; and Wm. Rust.

## EDITOR'S TABLE.

GOOD'S MATERIA MEDICA ANIMALIA. What in the world does all that mean? says our friend of the ploughshare. Well, it means a neat and beautifully illustrated work published by Peter P. Good of Cambridge, Mass., on the medicines derived from the animal kingdom. No. 2, which is now before us, contains an article on the natural history of the honey bee, together with the medical properties of honey, wax, &c. An article on the musk animal, or musk deer. Another on the whale, and another on the hog, with details of the medical uses of the oils and fat obtained from them. The work is beautifully illustrated with colored engravings, and is published quarterly at \$3 per annum, and it is worth the money.

DISEASES OF VERTEBRÆ OF THE NECK. We have received a neat pamphlet containing an interesting report of a case of extensive disease of vertebrae of the neck, by Buckminster Brown, M. D., of Boston. One of the vertebrae, or neck bones, as they are commonly called, became carious, and finally slipped out of place. The pamphlet contains chemical observations on the vertebrae and other forms of caries of the spine, also a report of an operation for neuralgia of eighteen years standing. These reports are valuable to the physician, unfolding as they do some new facts in regard to the diseases above mentioned.

Dr. B. could spare us a few more copies he would greatly oblige us.

GRAHAM'S MAGAZINE. This excellent monthly for April is at hand. Graham continues to give his readers 144 pages of reading matter, a course that cannot fail to meet their approval. The present number, among other interesting papers, contains the commencement of a novel by T. B. Read, entitled "The Pilgrims of the Great St. Bernard," very handsomely illustrated, with views of Alpine scenery, &c. An article from the Edinburgh Review, on the Hungarian Revolution, is particularly interesting at this time.

ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE OF ART. The third number of this work is received. It makes a very creditable appearance; the engravings are excellent, and the literary matter good. Published at \$3.00 per annum, by Alex. Montgomery, New York.

THE CAPTIVE IN PATAGONIA; or Life among the Giants. A personal narrative, by Benjamin F. Bourne. The very limited, and indefinite knowledge, which we have concerning Patagonia, makes the present work a very interesting one. We have, in this volume, the adventures of a prisoner, among the savages of Patagonia, by whom he was kept in captivity some three months, before he effected his escape. Their customs, habits, pursuits, and the character of the country, its soil, productions, &c., are all set forth by Capt. Bourne, in a very entertaining manner. We shall make some extracts from this work, hereafter. The volume has several illustrations, and is very neatly printed. Published by Gould & Lincoln, Boston.

THE FATHFUL SLAVE. This prize tale, which was recently published in the Literary Museum, has been issued in pamphlet form, by Dodge. A number of sketches are added, with illustrations.

As we went to press last week, too early to give any particulars of the election, we submit the vote for Mayor, in the different wards, and also the ward officers elected. The vacancies mentioned in our last, as existing in the Common Council, were filled on Tuesday, as follows: Ward 3; one vacancy—elected Alphonso Sawtelle. Ward 4; two vacancies reported—Jas. Thompson was elected on Monday, and on Tuesday, the existing vacancy was filled by the election of Wm. M. Saunders. Ward 5; one vacancy—elected P. S. Brundson.

The following is the list for Mayor:

Ward	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Scattering	93	58	108	89	71	102	69
	6	7	5			1	19

The following are the Ward officers:

Ward 1. Jacob H. Arnold, Warden; J. A. Richards, Clerk; Charles Gowen, Constable.

Ward 2. S. Caldwell, Jr., Warden; D. C. Stanwood, Clerk; Geo. W. Jones, Constable.

Ward 3. J. G. Phinney, Warden; T. B. Perkins, Clerk; David J. Boynton, Constable.

Ward 4. Charles Savage, Warden; Jas. W. Remick, Clerk; Nathan Woodward, Constable.

Ward 5. Jas. H. Patterson, Warden; Sam'l Patterson, Clerk; C. S. Hayden, Constable.

Ward 6. John H. Norcross, Warden; Jos. F. Gannett, Clerk; no choice for Constable.

Ward 7. Luther I. Wall, Warden; S. S. Webster, Clerk; Alvin Illey, Constable.

STORING ICE. A considerable quantity of that most indispensable luxury in summer—ice—has been put up within a few weeks, by some of our enterprising citizens. Mr. Geo. Williams recently sold a lot, which he had just laid in, at a handsome advance, to a Philadelphia company. We understand that another lot has been sold, the past week, but do not know at what advance. Several other lots are being put up, as fast as the means of hand will permit. We can see no reason, why this business cannot be made one of great profit to our citizens. There is no better ice, anywhere, than that which can be obtained from the Kennebec, and the expense of putting it in is small.

WAYNE TOWN MEETING. We have received the following list of town officers, chosen in Wayne, March 7th, 1883. Capt. Jennings, we see, is again tax-gatherer of that goodly town. No man looks after the "State and County" better than the Captain.

Moderator, C. Fuller.

Town Clerk, T. B. Read.

Selectmen and Assessors, J. Norris, Jr., T. Lovjoy, W. G. Besse.

Treasurer, W. H. Hunt.

Collector, J. F. Jennings.

Superintending School Committee, C. Parker, J. H. Thorn, B. F. Smith.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT. On Monday last the City Government for the ensuing year was organized, and Mayor Pettigill delivered his Inaugural address. We received the proceedings at too late an hour for insertion in this week's paper, but shall give full particulars next week, together with the Mayor's Address. In the Common Council, Samuel Tidwell, Esq., was re-elected President, and Wm. H. Wheeler, Clerk. On the second ballot for City Marshal, George W. Jones was re-elected. Daniel C. Stanwood was re-elected City Clerk.

FATAL ACCIDENT. We learn from the Boston papers, that Jeremiah Hickey, machinist of Roxbury, was run over by the cars, near the mill dam crossing in Boston, on Monday evening of last week. We believe he formerly resided in this city. He lived but a few hours after the accident.

## GATHERED NEWS FRAGMENTS.

Turkey and the Crystal Palace Exhibition. The Sultan has given notice through the Charge d'Affaires of the United States at Constantinople, that the Turkish Government will be unable to despatch a steamer with Turkish goods to the Crystal Palace Exhibition at New York. The reasons given are want of time, and the necessity which exists for the use of all his vessels of war at home.

Iowa Coal. The editor of the Dubuque Daily Herald has received specimens of coal of a superior description from the coal mines in Des Moines Valley, near Fort Des Moines. It exists abundantly in the vicinity of the town of that name, and is easy of access. A letter from a committee appointed at a public meeting, says that the Des Moines river flows over a smooth bed of coal, the depth of which is as yet unknown, while the upper stratum may be seen protruding from the sides of the hills in almost every direction.

Large Fortune to a Convict. A man named Robert Sutton, confined in the Auburn State Prison, New York, for robbing Judge Harris of Albany, has just received intelligence that he is the heir to ninety thousand dollars, by the death of a relative in England. He has yet some five years to remain in prison. Though a millionaire, he has neither liberty, linen, or sumptuous fare.

A Virginia Corn Field. There is a corn field on the Roanoke river, at the place where it is crossed by the Weldon and Portsmouth railroad, which is ten miles long and as wide as the low grounds of the river are broad. This little patch of corn is worked by a man named Pollock, who owns two thousand slaves to work it.

Warm Practice. Physicians in India raise blisters with red hot iron, and dress them with cayenne pepper. If such treatment don't make a man "smart," we don't know anything that would. One of their favorite cathartics is made of pills of gunpowder—twelve are given to a dose. A minute after they are down, a coal of fire is administered, when a movement in the particles takes place, that either eradicates the disease or the patient.

Butter for the World's Fair. The Middletown (N. Y.) Whig Press says that many farmers in Orange County have discontinued selling their milk, and resumed the old system of butter making, anticipating an increased demand and enhanced prices for that article in the New York market, which the influx of visitors to the World's Fair must create.

Japan. According to Mr. DeBow, the revenue of Japan amounts to \$100,000,000 annually. The standing army of the empire, in time of peace, 120,000 men. The population is about 30,000,000. It is estimated that the trade of Japan with this country, if she opens her ports, will be worth more than \$200,000,000 annually to us.

Caloric Locomotives. On the occasion of the Virginia Legislature to his ship, Capt. Ericsson stated that he could now build locomotive engines fast enough for freight purposes, but that one year hence he could construct one to run with the fastest.

New post office. A new post office has been established at Bonny Eagle, York county, Me.; N. H. Lane, postmaster.

Served him right. The French courts do not allow milkmen to sell water for milk. A farmer of Corbeil, who had been sending milk to Paris, or what pretended to be milk, when one-third of it was water, was recently fined a hundred francs and sentenced to a month imprisonment. A like example here might prevent so general a use of "the black tank cow."

Furnal of a slave. At a funeral of an aged and faithful slave, which recently took place at Lynchburg, Va., five hundred colored persons attended. Nearly all of those were slaves who had been released from labor by their masters in order that they might pay the last tribute of respect to fidelity, honesty, and duty well discharged. In the procession there were also some dozen private carriages of the citizens, sent by their owners as a token of their respect to fidelity, however humble may have been the occupation in which it was exhibited.

Fire in Carmel. On the morning of the 16th inst., the dwelling house of Mr. Daniel T. Haskell, of Carmel, Me., together with all the furniture and other properties, was consumed by fire.

Important Decision. W. C. Clarke, Judge of Probate for this county, says the Nathan, N. H. Telegraph, has recently decided that the Wild game, which subject has been the cause of subsistence, has disappeared, and they are reduced to the necessity of eating their horses or starving. We are informed by persons who have recently travelled through their country, that the Indians are passing on the coast, and are feeling the neglect of the Government toward them, and impelled by hunger, are of necessity forced to pass the bounds prescribed for them by the United States Government.

Chances in the Matrimonial Lottery. Abner Curtis, a great shoe manufacturer in East Abington, proposes to some twenty or thirty young men in his employ, that if they will, by prudence and economy, respectively, save one hundred dollars the current year, and commit matrimony before the first day of January next, he will make them each a new year's present of a house lot, and \$100 in cash to aid in the erection of a cottage upon the same.

Cod Liver Oil. The Baltimore American states, at the suggestion of a physician of eminence, that this nauseous medicine may be administered without the least disgust to a patient, by chewing and swallowing a small quantity of the roe of a smoked herring both before and after taking a spoonful of oil. A piece of sardine will answer, if herring is not palatable. The disguise is perfectly effectual, and the most delicate patient may thus use the physic with comfort.

Moderate weather. The Geneva Courier says the waters of the Seneca Lake are never frozen over, even in the coldest winters, and near the shore there is scarcely enough ice to supply the summer's requirements. Seneca Canal, running from the lake for miles from Geneva, has been navigable all winter, and in no instance, not even in the coldest days, has it been "skinned over." It is fed directly from the lake, and as that receives its waters from springs, and is of immense depth, the temperature of it, all winter long, is above that of freezing.

Death Penalty in Massachusetts. Last year a law was passed by the Legislature, to the effect that a person found guilty of murder or any other crime the penalty of which was death, should be kept in the State prison one year, at the expiration of which time the executive could issue a warrant for execution. The Senate have passed to a third reading an act to repeal the law, by a vote of 32 to 5.

A Chance for Sharp Shooters. Dr. Graham, of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, offers to pay the expenses of any one to and from that place, who will free of charge while there, and present him with a gold medal, if he shall beat him at off-hand rifle shooting, at which no sticks, staves, or hip-rests will be allowed.

Death of an Eminent Ship-builder. We learn by private letter, that Capt. Samuel Hanscom, Jr., the well known ship-builder of Portsmouth, N. H., died at his late residence in Eliot, Me., says the Boston Evening Gazette, on Friday evening, 11th inst. of consumption, aged about 48 years. Mr. Hanscom was the builder and part owner of the splendid clipper ship Nightingale, which vessel recently beat the crack sailer of Britain on a bet of \$10,000.

## NOMINATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT.

Since the inauguration of President Pierce, many nominations have been made and confirmed. Among them we notice the following:

Charles H. Pease, Collector, Boston.

Charles G. Greene, Naval Officer, Boston.

John Hays, Surveyor General of California.

Benjamin F. Hallet, District Attorney of Massachusetts.

Joseph Lane, Governor of Oregon.

Isaac J. Stevens, of Mass., Governor of the Territory of Washington.

Robert B. Campbell, of Texas, Commissioner of the Mexican Boundary.

Theodore S. Fay, of New York, Minister to Switzerland.

John Randolph Clay, of Penn., Minister to the Republic of Peru.

Samuel D. Hap, Consul to Tunis.

Loren P. Waldo, Commissioner of Pensions.

We notice only one appointment in Maine, viz: Nathaniel M. Towle, Collector, Saco. The appointments for this State, are to be made some time during the present week, and we shall announce them in our next.

BARBET'S UNRIVALLED SOAP. No man gets up such a variety of superior soap as Barbet of Boston. His Barbettian, Cytherean, and other varieties, are not only excellent for the purposes designed, but are put up in beautiful cases which make them very convenient for travelers as well as housekeepers. We will find all these varieties at Dillingham & Tibcomb's in this city.

THE TIDWELL FAMILY. A friend informs us that Mr. Samuel Tidwell of New York, is preparing a genealogy of the Tidwells, who descend from John Tidwell, one of the early pilgrims, who came from England and settled in Duxbury, Mass. They have become quite numerous. The Tidwells in Maine can, by writing to him, have their names inserted in the list.

SINGULAR CASE OF FIRE. The Boston Atlas says the following fact may be useful, not only in guiding against a similar occurrence, but in suggesting one among many causes of fire, which are, undoubtedly, often wrongly attributed to incendiarism.

A few days since, a gentleman in the vicinity of Boston observed that the tassel to the shade of his chamber window was badly burned, and in a manner which gave no indication of the cause. He failed in his inquiries, and no person in the house could give him any information. A morning or two after, the domestic, who was attending to the room, was down in haste, exclaiming that the chamber window was on fire. An examination explained the mystery. In front of the window, which looked easterly, stood a shaving glass set to a movable stand. A magnifying glass on the back reflected the rays of the sun, which then fell in a focus on the window, and whenever they struck on wood they burned into it, charring the frame in many places. A piece of paper placed against the window was set on fire, and, indeed, the whole window was threatened with destruction. Had the fire extended, it is not probable that the origin of it would have been discovered, and it would have been placed among those incomprehensible causes which can find no other solution than willful mischief.

LATER FROM TEXAS. By the arrival of the steamer Louisiana, at New Orleans, we have Galveston advices to the 4th inst.

The subscriptions to the capital stock of the Texas Central Railroad amount to nearly \$600,000.

The Indians have been stealing horses and committing other depredations on the Sabana.

A Government mail team from Eagle pass, with stores for Fort Clark, on the Los Moras, was fired upon by a party of Indians, when the two men in charge fled. The Indians took the mail and left.

The citizens in the vicinity of these depredations talk of deserting the country in consequence of the frequent Indian incursions, which render the possession of life, as well as property very uncertain.

The Victoria Advocate says: Great excitement has been created in the towns on this side of the Rio Grande, opposite El Paso, by the discovery of some valuable silver mines on the eastern slope of the mountains, about sixty miles north-east of El Paso. The ore is found in immense quantities directly on the surface of the ground, and several tons of it have already been gathered and transported on mules to Magoffinsville, to be smelted.

TEXAS INDIANS. The Texas State Gazette says: "It is a baleful fact, and worthy of consideration by the 'powers that be,' that the Indians of the north-west are in a starving condition. If success, which subject has been the cause of subsistence, has disappeared, and they are reduced to the necessity of eating their horses or starving. We are informed by persons who have recently travelled through their country, that the Indians are passing on the coast, and are feeling the neglect of the Government toward them, and impelled by hunger, are of necessity forced to pass the bounds prescribed for them by the United States Government.

NEW STEAM LINE IN THE PACIFIC. Contracts have lately been concluded between the governments of Central America and Capt. Thomas Wright, a United States citizen, for the establishment of a line of steamships in the Pacific, touching at the various intermediate ports in Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica. The project will greatly assist in the commerce and facilitate mercantile intercourse between those countries and the United States, besides diverting most of the European commerce with Central America into routes passing through the United States. The plan is to send Capt. Wright a guaranteed payment of \$250,000 from the Central States, and a monopoly of the line for ten years. It is said the first steamer will be put on about the 1st of September next.

DEADLY DEMENT. The Angeles Reporter corrects a misapprehension in regard to the motive which inspired the two men convicted in Allegheny county of placing obstructions on the track of the Erie Railroad, and assigns one almost too horrible for belief. The Reporter says, strange as it may seem, the facts elicited by the evidence show conclusively that there was no animosity existing on the part of the two individuals against the company, or that there was the least cause of complaint against the company; but that it was a preconcerted plan to throw the "express" train from the track for the purpose of robbing the passengers in the general melee! This was proved on the trial.

ANOTHER INVENTION. We learn by a gentleman direct from New York, that Norman Cutler, Esq., and a machinist of this city, are now in that city perfecting the model of an engine to be driven by heated air—something after the Ericsson plan, but of a more compact and better adapted in many respects to steamboats or locomotives. The model had been completed, and the trial gave a great deal of satisfaction. It is said the machinery will occupy but half the space of the Ericsson, and the cost of building and running is a great deal less. We shall probably hear more about it in a few days.

MOR OF WOMEN. The Cleveland Herald says that on the 1st instant, some thirty women, well backed by gentlemen, proceeded to the grocery of Anthony Jacobs, in Ashland, and asked him to discontinue the sale of liquor and the use of the bagatelle board, which had enlisted many of the youth and some of the married men from their homes. He refused, and the ladies chopped his bagatelle table into kindling wood and emptied his liquor into the street. The women immediately applied to the mayor, and will soon be in possession of the funds.

## DESTRUCTION OF THE CLIPPER SHIP GOLDEN LIGHT.

With regret we announce the loss of this beautiful clipper ship, which recently left this port on her first voyage to California. The following particulars relate to a story, not only in the loss of much valuable property, and the suffering endured by the survivors, but also on account of the uncertain fate of those in the missing boats. We give the annexed particulars as related by Capt. Winsor, of the ill-fated ship:

The British ship Shand, which arrived at this port yesterday from Calcutta, has on board Capt. Winsor and part of officers, crew and passengers of the new clipper ship Golden Light, which sailed from this port Feb. 12, for San Francisco. Capt. Winsor reports that the Golden Light was struck by lightning on the night of Feb. 22, at nine o'clock, when in lat. 22° 23' N., lon. 47° 49' W. The captain reports that after every exertion had been made to save the ship through the night and day of the 23d, all hands were driven to the boats at 6 P. M., and the crew and passengers, thirty-five in number, left the ship in the morning. The ship was in flames forward. At 10 o'clock the foremast burnt off and fell, and at half-past 10 the main and mizzen masts went.

They saw the ship for the last time at half-past 12 o'clock midnight, and she appeared then heavily consumed.

The boats, five in number, with plenty of provisions and water, were directed to steer southwest, and keep company if possible. One of the boats had compasses, and those without were directed by the stars. One boat was missing on the morning of the 24th, and was not seen afterwards. Another boat also parted company on the fourth night after leaving the ship.

After five days exposure in open boats, the remaining boats that kept company were picked up by the British ship Shand, Capt. Christie, whose humanity and unbounded hospitality, together with that of his wife, officers and crew, never ever being reproached by the survivors as a debt of gratitude which they must ever owe them.

The following are the names of the persons picked up in the boats:

John W. Winsor, master; John W. Lincoln, mate; Charles E. Burton, 2d mate; George H. Hinchings, steward; Wm. A. Miller, Charles A. Perkins, Francis B. Merriam, Henry C. Parks, John Smith, Wm. Cook, Horatio B. Peares, Francis Silvia, Manuel Francis, and Anne Francis, sons of Mrs. H. E. Ford of Yarmouth, Me., Mrs. E. S. Merrill, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Cummings of Gardiner, Me., Mr. E. P. Dodge of Salem, and Mr. Nathan Simonds of Lincoln, Mass. Total 20.

The above includes all the passengers except Mr. F. B. Burton, 2d mate. The total number of persons on board is stated to have been thirty-five, and consequently there are fifteen yet to be heard from, who may possibly be rescued in the same manner as those who have been fortunately rescued by the Shand.

The Golden Light was a fine vessel of 1140 tons burthen, built by the Messrs. Briggs at South Boston, last year, and was owned principally by James Huenes, Esq., of this city. She is doubtless fully insured, as well as her cargo, and the loss fall heavily upon the insurance offices in this city. This total loss on vessel and cargo will not fall much short of \$300,000. [Boston Journal.]

WITCHCRAFT IN PENNSYLVANIA. The Chambersburg Whig of the 17th ult. says a correspondent, writing from Fulton county, informs us of a singular case of supposed witchcraft that occurred near Sliding Hill. There is a certain religious sect called themselves the Christian Church. A lady, one of the members, was taken sick and lay for some time, until she finally imagined herself bewitched, and a sister in the Church was settled upon as the witch.

The meeting of the session was called in due season, at which the minister presided, and the charge of witchcraft was formally preferred against the lady. Being a new case, and we presume, not provided for in the discipline, the session was puzzled as to the proper manner to proceed in the case. At length it was proposed that she should be asked to step over a broomstick, as it had been said that a witch could not do so; but the accused got over it without apparent difficulty. After a consultation it was agreed that she should be asked to step over a pair of weigh-scales with a bible to balance her, and if she was a witch the bible would be too heavy for her. Accordingly she was taken to a mill, and the experiment tried, but she proved too heavy for the bible. It was then proposed that she should be asked to step over a pair of scales, and if she was a witch the scales would be too heavy for her. Accordingly she was taken to a mill, and the experiment tried, but she proved too heavy for the scales. It was then proposed that she should be asked to step over a pair of scales, and if she was a witch the scales would be too heavy for her. Accordingly she was taken to a mill, and the experiment tried, but she proved too heavy for the scales.

A VERY NARROW ESCAPE. Bull's ATITUDE, as every body here knows, commences at the top of the highest banks of the river at the lower falls, and winds its way down the bank for half a mile or more, until, after a descent of nearly 300 feet, it reaches the river's edge. On the land side, the precipice towers above the road in some places fully 200 feet. At the end of the avenue is a stone warehouse and tavern, and near it a direct line of railway, for the use of the stabling of Ralph Riddle's horses, six in all. The horses stand in two rows, with their heads out, while a passage way of four or five feet is left between their heels. Yesterday morning, when Henry, the groom in waiting, was engaged in the stable, and the horses were quietly ruminating upon the mutabilities of equine life, a rock high up on the precipice became detached and gravitated downward. It fell some distance scoring its mark upon the side of the precipice, and when it came to a halt, through the roof, scattering the fragments in every direction, and bringing up against the ground in the narrow space between the horses: Neither man nor horses were injured, but all were astonished beyond measure. The stone was about a ton's weight, and it fell we are told, some 200 feet, or further than the height of a tall church spire. [Rochester American.]

POST-OFFICE ORDERS IN ENGLAND. The Government has established a very convenient system of forwarding remittances, which is worth describing. It is connected with the post-office, and has its branches in every town, and nearly every village in the country. The plan is simple and reliable. The person remitting goes to the money-order office, as the head-quarters are called, and obtains a draft for the amount required, payable at a given place. The order is forwarded by mail by the person who brought it, and at the same time the remittance is transmitted by the Government agent to the office on which the draft is made, stating the sum and the name of the person sending. The person who receives it presents the order, and after signing his name to a receipt on its face, is asked who the order is from. If the answer be satisfactory, the amount is paid at once; but if not, it is withheld until it is shown conclusively that he is the proper recipient. Sixpence is charged on sums of 45 or less, and when the advantages are taken into consideration, it is very reasonable. Fraud seldom or never results from the system, and losses are rare. Some persons pretend to think the Government has no right to ask the part of a small exchange broker, and that the majority think otherwise, and as the system prevents sharper from taking advantage of the necessities of those who want to make small remittances, it is popular among the masses, and both useful and safe.

Wanderers in Europe, by J. Moran.

A VALUABLE "DEAD LETTER." A very valuable "dead letter" came to life again at the letter office in Washington, on Monday last. September 22nd, a gentleman of one of the Western States purchased a farm still further in the "Eden of America." He was going in person to survey his new possessions, but instead of carrying a sum of \$2,500 about him, preferred to consign it to the post-office. On arriving at the place, he was the terminus of his journey, and he inquired at the post office for the letter which contained the treasure, but owing to the failure of the mail on that particular day, or some other cause, he did not receive it. The alleged loss was communicated to the Department at Washington, and prompt measures were adopted to ferret out the cause. On Monday, however, the letter, enclosing five \$500 bills, in good money, was received as a "dead letter." The owner was immediately apprised of the discovery, and will soon be in possession of the funds.

## LATEST NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA.

The steamship Ucla San arrived at New York on Tuesday last week.

Dates from California are to the 16th. The weather throughout the mines was delightful. The miners were mostly doing well.

Benicia had finally been fixed upon as the Capital of the State.

The amount of gold taken to Panama by the steamers from San Francisco is stated at four millions.

Some brick fighting had occurred between the Indians and miners on the Dry Creek. Several whites had been killed.

Beautiful specimens of diamonds, rubies and emeralds had been found in the interior.

An extensive claim to land in San Francisco had just been made by a native of California, named Jose Ybañez Lemaitre. The Farallones, Yerba Buena, and other islands in and about the bay, are embraced in the claim, which is said to have been granted in 1843. Should the claimant ever succeed in his title, two-thirds of San Francisco will be tributary to his coffers.

The subject of legislating for the mines is still before the public. It is probable that the present Legislature will determine upon some course of policy.

The weather dry and pleasant weather has encouraged building and improvements. There are some fifty large and substantial brick and stone edifices in course of erection through the city, among which is the Metropolitan Hotel, a structure covering as much ground as the hotel bearing the same name in New York. The building, when completed, will be an ornament to the city. The Union is another fine establishment, in course of erection on the plaza.

The excitement in Calaveras County, concerning Mexican miners, continued. The state of the Mexican population had been driven away. The most consternation prevailed among the foreigners.

We find the following in the "Alta California" newspaper of Feb. 16th:

"Henry W. Weston and George C. Chadbourne, two industrious young men from Standish, Me., lost their lives by the caving in of a bank near the junction of the Middle Yuba."

Oregon. By arrivals at San Francisco, we have dates from Oregon up to the 19th of January.

The Oregonians say—"It is supposed that not less than five thousand head of cattle died during, and in consequence of the late storm and cold weather, East of Cascade mountains. Many persons lost every animal they possessed. This loss will be seriously felt by the whole country."

It commenced snowing at the Dalles on the 8th of December, and continued twenty-two days and nights—the weather very dry and far back as the De Shutes river the snow had disappeared.

New and rich discoveries of places continue to be made in the mineral sections of this state, especially in Jacksonville, said to be the richest of the Oregon mines.

SANDWICH ISLANDS. We have dates from the Sandwich Islands to the 8th of January.

The influenza had again appeared at Honolulu. The disease had prevailed for over a fortnight, afflicting the community, both natives and foreigners, very severely.

Sugar of a very fine quality is being manufactured in the Sandwich Islands.

The government organ has officially repudiated any intention of transferring the sovereignty of the islands to the United States.

GAS STATISTICS. The public lamps of Liverpool are lighted every night in the year. The average number of hours is 3,620.

In Manchester the lamps are lighted every night in winter, but in summer they are only lighted nights, say five nights in each month. They are lighted half an hour after sunset, and extinguished half an hour after sunrise, and burn about 3,500 hours per year.

In London, Birmingham, and other cities, the lamps are lighted every night, and burn from sunset to sunrise. The average is 12 hours per night or 4,800 hours per year.

The city of Brooklyn pays the gas company \$2.30 per 1,000 cubic feet. The gas consumed in the street lamps: Albany \$2.40; Boston \$2.50; and New York \$1.70 per 1,000 cubic feet. If the lamps in New York were lighted every night in the year, they would burn about 3,500 hours. If seven moonlight nights each moon were omitted in summer, it would reduce the number to 3,632 hours. Then each lamp would







